Summary #10

1. Name of session.

Backchannels in the Classroom

1. Conference year and strand.

2008 –Kicking it up a Notch

1. URL of session.

http://k12onlineconference.org/?p=330

1. Brief session summary/main points made.

Backchanneling is basically a way to have students’ blog and respond alongside a classroom task. It encourages active participation and conversation while a live presentation is going on in the classroom.

1. Questions and/or ideas for further exploration.

Backchanneling will give a voice to the shy and quiet kids in the classroom. It gives them a voice that they may otherwise not use. One of the best things about backchanneling is that it allows students to interact as things are presented instead of waiting until later to respond. There are countless uses for this in the classroom. Teachers can also explore the use of backchanneling alongside Skype, as only some students can talk on Skype at one time, but backchanneling would keep all students engaged.

1. What was gained from the session in terms of personal professional development?

A new tool for my repertoire was gained in backchanneling. Students will be more apt to pay attention when they know they will be called on to comment or so that they will have something to comment. I have also gained knowledge of the websites chatmaker.net, chatzy.com, coveritlive.com, and backnoise.com to utilize in the classroom.

7. How will this be applied to my professional situation (plus at least three ideas for applying these tools or concepts to support teaching and learning)?

It would be neat to use this backchanneling tool to have students debate with one another on classroom topics. Also, it can be used as an assessment tool for teachers, as well as simple everyday discussion. Overall I have learned a handy new tool in backchanneling.